

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DPW-01

DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05 /080 W
----- 002660

R 151503Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9131

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SY, PLO

SUBJECT: SARG REFUSAL TO PERMIT UNRWA RELIEF SHIPMENTS
TO LEBANON PART OF SYRIAN EFFORT TO EXERT SOME CONTROL
ON PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT

1. DAO OPS COORD WAS TOLD BY UNRWA OFFICIAL RECENTLY THAT
SARG HAD NOT PERMITTED ORGANIZATION TO SHIP RELIEF SUPPLIES
TO PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON FOR PAST MONTH. HE ADDED THAT
PALESTINIANS WHO HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN SYRIA FROM LEBANON
HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED BY SARG TO SUBSCRIBE TO LOCAL UNRWA
RELIEF PROGRAM. LOCAL UNRWA DIRECTOR TOLD EMBOFF AUGUST 7
THAT UNRWA HAD SHIPPED SOME FLOUR TO LEBANON FOR
DISTRIBUTION IN CAMPS BUT HE DID NOT SAY WHEN THIS HAD
OCCURRED.

2. COMMENT: RESTRICTIONS SARG HAS PLACED ON UNRWA
OPERATIONS AFFECTING PALESTINIANS PRESENTLY/ FORMERLY
RESIDENT IN LEBANON SEEM PART OF SYRIAN EFFORT TO
EXERT SOME MEASURE OF CONTROL ON PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT.

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IN VIEW OF SPLITS AMONG VARIOUS PALESTINIAN GROUPS IN

LEBANON INTO PRO AND ANTI-SYRIAN FACTIONS WHICH
REFLECTED IN ATTITUDES SHOWN BY OFFICIALS
OF THESE GROUPS IN SYRIA--PARTICULARLY PDFLP, PFLP-GC
AND FATAH--SARG NO LONGER CONFIDENT IT CAN RELY UPON
PALESTINIANS TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY TO DAMASCUS REGIME.

3. CHARGES EMANATING FROM LEBANON THAT SYRIAN SECURITY
FORCES HAVE OCCUPIED SOME PDFLP OFFICES IN DAMASCUS, IF
TRUE, WOULD CONSTITUTE ADDITIONAL CONTROL MEASURES.
EMBOFF RECENTLY INFORMED BY GREED ORTHODOX ARCHBISHOP
OF TRIPOLI THAT PDFLP ORGANIZATION IN THAT CITY HAD
SPLIT INTO THREE FACTIONS, INCLUDING SUPPORTERS AND
OPPONENTS OF COOPERATION WITH DAMASCUS. HE UNCERTAIN
ABOUT POLICY OF THIRD FACTION.
MURPHY

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NNN

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